

Senate Resolution 667

By: Senator Tolleson of the 20th

ADOPTED SENATE**A RESOLUTION**

1 Creating the Senate Retrofit of Diesel Engines Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, a total of 27 full or partial counties in Georgia are classified by the United
3 States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as "nonattainment areas" for not meeting the
4 federal air quality standards for ground level ozone, particulate matter, or both, including 20
5 counties in metro Atlanta as well as areas surrounding Macon, Rome, and Chattanooga; and

6 WHEREAS, additional areas around Georgia, including Athens-Clarke County, Augusta, and
7 Columbus, are experiencing air quality levels above the national health standard limits; and

8 WHEREAS, these areas are fast growing, could be adversely affected by continued growth,
9 and ultimately could be designated as "nonattainment areas" in the near future; and

10 WHEREAS, a designation of nonattainment could jeopardize economic development and
11 additional growth in those areas; and

12 WHEREAS, federal transportation funding could be jeopardized if those areas continue to
13 exceed the federal air quality standards; and

14 WHEREAS, diesel engines play an essential role in Georgia's economy through powering
15 the majority of our port, rail, construction, and agriculture industries, as well as our
16 emergency systems; and

17 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency lists diesel particulate
18 matter plus diesel exhaust organic gases as a mobile source air toxic; and

19 WHEREAS, stringent federal emissions standards have been adopted for all new diesel
20 engines; and

21 WHEREAS, "legacy" diesel engines, which include those on-road engines built prior to 2007
22 and nonroad engines built prior to 2011, were manufactured under less stringent or
23 nonexistent federal rules; and

24 WHEREAS, by retrofitting "legacy" engines, emissions can immediately be reduced by 30
25 to 90 percent, depending on the type of retrofit applied and the size of the engine; and

26 WHEREAS, retrofitting durable diesel engines provides long-lasting environmental and
27 public health benefits, yet vehicle and equipment owners, the majority of which are small
28 companies, could likely experience financial hardships in paying for the cost of retrofit
29 equipment; and

30 WHEREAS, federal funds are currently available for use in Georgia to address this problem
31 through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Fund (CMAQ) and the Diesel Emissions
32 Reduction Act (DERA); and

33 WHEREAS, additional outreach is needed to inform and educate fleet owners about the
34 availability of existing funding and retrofit options available; and

35 WHEREAS, federal funds are insufficient to retrofit the tens of thousands of diesel vehicles
36 and pieces of equipment in the State of Georgia; and

37 WHEREAS, additional incentives and funding from the federal government are needed to
38 encourage retrofitting of "legacy" diesel engines by vehicle and equipment owners, public
39 and private; and

40 WHEREAS, federal funding for an inventory of diesel engines is needed to gauge the extent
41 and complexity of this issue and how best to address it; and

42 WHEREAS, education and outreach on the air quality benefits to be attained by retrofitting
43 "legacy" engines and equipment is needed for fleet owners of diesel powered vehicles and
44 equipment.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
46 Retrofit of Diesel Engines Study Committee, to be composed of 19 members as follows:

47 (1) Three members of the Senate, including the chairperson of the Senate Natural
48 Resources and the Environment Committee and two members to be appointed by the

President of the Senate from among the membership of the Senate Transportation Committee and the Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee; and

(2) Sixteen persons who are not members of the General Assembly, to be appointed by the President of the Senate, including one person from each of the following groups:

- (A) Southern Alliance for Clean Energy;
- (B) Mothers & Others for Clean Air at the Georgia Conservancy;
- (C) American Lung Association, Southeast Region;
- (D) Georgia Conservation Voters;
- (E) Clean Energy Strategies, LLC;
- (F) Clean Air Task Force;
- (G) Diesel Technology Forum;
- (H) Engine Manufacturers Association;
- (I) Georgia Equipment Distributors Association;
- (J) Georgia Highway Contractors Association;
- (K) Georgia Chamber of Commerce;
- (L) Georgia Construction Aggregators Association;
- (M) Georgia Railroad Association;
- (N) Georgia Farm Bureau;
- (O) Georgia Forestry Association; and
- (P) Georgia Mining Association.

The chairperson of the Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee shall serve as chairperson of the study committee. The committee shall meet upon the call of the chairperson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall:

- (1) Study the air quality benefits to be derived from the retrofit of diesel engines, with emphasis on the reduction of particulate matter;
- (2) Evaluate various incentives that will encourage diesel engine owners to retrofit their engines and investigate the availability of funding for grants and other funding sources that might be made available to diesel engine owners for this purpose;
- (3) Investigate the potential need for other approaches to reduce diesel exhaust; and
- (4) After providing notice, a hearing, and the opportunity for comment from the public, including interested citizens, air quality experts, diesel powered vehicle and equipment owners, and industry specialists, recommend any administrative action or legislation that the committee deems necessary or appropriate to encourage retrofitting and upgrading of in-use diesel engines.

84 The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
85 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its
86 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative
87 members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members
88 of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than three days
89 unless additional days are authorized. No allowance shall be paid to other members of the
90 committee. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
91 from the funds appropriated to the Senate. The committee shall submit a report of its
92 findings and recommendations no later than December 1, 2009. The committee shall stand
93 abolished on December 31, 2009.